small regular force in that region under the brave and energetic Captain Nathaniel Lyon; and actual hostilities on quite a large scale were carried on during the months of May and June, 1861. The battle of Boonville, on the 17th of June, decided the fate of Missouri in favor of the Union cause.

Kentucky, as we have seen, was at this time endeavoring to pursue a neutral policy, and her territory was occupied solely by her own militia.

There remained, therefore, only Virginia as a possible theatre of war; and Virginia wUB divided by the Alleghany Mountains into twocoimnunitios, differing in essential respects from each other. We have referred to this fact before.[1] On the Recession of Virginia in May, Governor Letcher and the State authorities had exerted themselves to arouse the secession spirit in the western counties, but without effect. Their population had far mom affinity with their neighbors on the Northern side of the Ohio River than with the slave-holding people of central and southeastern Virginia on the other Bide of the mountains. A conflict was, therefore, certain to occur, sooner or later, and it wan not difficult to foresee that its result would 1)6 favorable to the Union cause, it being obviously much easier for the North than for the South to maintain a

decisive superiority in military force in the region lying northwest of the Alleghanies.

Early in June, the small body of troops which had been sent from Richmond to overawe the country and to burn the bridges on the Baltimore and Ohio

[1] *Antei* **p. 3, n. ; p. n.**